



Editorial

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The Mamiya Medical Heritage Center: A treasure of Hawaii medical history in the Hawaii Medical Library

The Hawaii Medical Library had its beginning in 1913, when Dr. Arthur F. Jackson was appointed to head the committee of local doctors to form a medical library. Its first location was in the "Bungalow" on the Palace grounds.

As Margery Hastert pointed out in the History of the Hawaii Medical Library, the Library has had many locations, each too small, too fast, until it moved to its present location at the Queen's Medical Center campus on Punchbowl Street. Ground was broken on July 31, 1961. Harry L. Arnold, Jr., M.D., Editor of the Hawaii Medical Journal, stressed the importance of a medical library to serve the community. Grover Batten, M.D., pointed out that the library had to serve the community in general, the University of Hawaii, the East-West Center, and State Department of Health, in addition to physicians and nurses. And it continues to do so in the age of faxes, computers and the World Wide Web.

The late Vladimir Ossipoff, AIA, reflected on his design of the library. It had ten thousand, eight hundred and thirty square feet on the main floor, eight thousand, seven hundred and fifty square feet

on the mezzanine, and eight thousand, four hundred square feet in the basement.

The Mamiya Medical Heritage Center, located in a part of the basement, was founded by retired cardiac surgeon Richard Mamiya, M.D., in 1999. Dick's comment, from his oral history: "I think a good credo in life is that you come down to this place; you should do something to leave it as a better place than when you came." You sure have, Dick.

Richard L. Mamiya, M.D., a native of Honolulu, received his bachelor's degree from UH, then earned his MD degree and served his residencies at St. Louis University and St. Louis Hospitals in Missouri. Returning to the islands in 1960, he became director of the UH Integrated Surgical Residency Program and chaired the surgery department in the UH School of Medicine from 1967 to 1974. An active participant in Honolulu community activities and philanthropic endeavors, as well as professional affairs, the former thoracic surgeon has been honored for a variety of achievements – Communicator of the Year, Father of the Year in Medicine, Humanitarian of the Year, and Philanthropist of the Year. He has been appointed to the boards of trustees for both the UH Foundation and the Hawaii Community Foundation, and he is a major donor to half a dozen local charities in addition to the Richard T. Mamiya Charitable Foundation. He seems to be as well-known in Japan as he is in his hometown. Every year, Japanese nationals in need of heart surgery made the trip to Honolulu to place themselves in the care of this celebrated specialist. Dr. Mamiya was honored at the Japanese Consulate in November 1996, when he received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette decoration.

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The Mamiya Medical Heritage Center is also the repository for the Charles S. Judd, Jr., M.D., History of Medicine collection of rare books published prior to 1901. Charlie served on the Board of the Medical Library for more than 25 years. It was Charlie who initiated the oral history programs on audio tapes and videotapes containing "the thoughts and feelings of Hawaii's practitioners of the art and science of medicine of the past and present." The May 1988 Special Issue of the Hawaii Medical Journal was dedicated to the Library and to Charlie Judd. Charlie died on July 27, 1987 and it was pointed out in the *Mahalo to a Mentsh*, "Charlie will never leave us! The lives he saved with his surgery, the lives he touched with his compassion and his teachings will always remind us that he is still with us." And he lives through his personal collection of rare books that continues to remind us of that great man in Hawaii medicine.

In the same spirit of dedication to Hawaii medical history, Dick Mamiya founded the Heritage Center. The Center is the repository for biographies of more than 2,500 physicians who have practiced in Hawaii. Each physician is catalogued and contains photographs, Curriculum Vitae, media publications, newspaper stories, and family histories – a vast amount of medical history that will remain, thanks to Dick Mamiya.

The Center contains archives and artifacts of Hawaii medicine. One librarian and one library assistant are available to assist anyone interested in the vast collection. The Center offers reproduction services at the Library or with the help of the library staff. This material is available via mail, fax, and e-mail.

Even with the modern advances of Power Point presentations, slides, CD-ROM's, and with more Journals and books now on the Web and compact discs, the Mamiya Heritage Center is running out of physical space, as is the entire Medical Library. Nonetheless, the Center welcomes donations of historically significant materials related to the progress of medicine and the related health sciences here in Hawaii, and would very much appreciate CV's from all practicing physicians. We will find the space for these bits and bytes of Hawaii medicine.

References:

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